ROMO Museum Collections Descriptions

Archival Collections:

The museum collections also include documentary artifacts called archives that reflect decisions and activities relating to the park and the immediate surrounding areas. The archival collections include employee generated records, rare published materials relocated from the library collections, and manuscript collections from outside donors. The archives are made up of paper documents, lantern slides, photographic prints and negatives, audio and video media, and digital media.

Biological Specimens:

This includes 455 geology specimens, 2,857 cataloged mounts, 392 cataloged animal skulls, and 1,932 specimens of lepidoptera (butterflies). There is also a plant herbarium, many of which the Denver Botanical Gardens collected in the early 1930's. There are 4,925 cataloged plants in the historic herbarium, representing all the park's different elevations and zones.

Cultural Artifacts:

There are 33,465 objects related to the park's cultural history. This collection includes furnishings from historic homes in Rocky Mountain National Park, such as the Leifer Cabin, the William Allen White Cabin, the Holzworth Ranch, and the lodges. Furniture, placemats, tablecloths, doilies, and other linens, as well as place settings have all been donated to the park. The cultural history collection also has items related to the conservation and recreational history of the park such as the Osbourne Fire Finder from the Twin Sisters Fire Lookout and skis found in the Fall River Road area. There are also 20,737 cataloged objects related to archeology, mostly representing Ute & Arapaho occupation of the area now known as Rocky Mountain National Park.

Fine Art:

The park's museum collection also includes pieces from the Artist-in-Residence program, which the park has been gathering since 1984. The artists use a variety of mediums to represent the park including colored pencil, watercolor, oil, silk, black and white photographs, color photographs, music, poetry, and literature. There are 89 pieces of art displayed throughout the park. Visit the Moraine Park Visitor Center (museum) for a concentration of pieces.